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On: TEXAS CITRUS ESTIMATES

UP 29 PERCENT FROM LAST SEASON

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For Release: IMMEDIATELY (October 12, 2006)

AUSTIN . . . The October 1, 2006, Texas grapefruit production is forecast at 6.7 million boxes for the 2006-2007 season, up 29 percent from last year's 5.2 million boxes.

All orange production is estimated at 1.78 million boxes, up 11 percent from last year. Early and midseason oranges account for 1.54 million boxes and Valencias for 240,000 boxes. The production of all oranges totaled 1.6 million boxes last season.

Orange harvest should be underway with larger than normal fruit sizes and good quality.

United States grapefruit production is forecast at 38.5 million boxes, up 26 percent from

last year. All orange production is forecast at 183.1 million boxes, down 12 percent from last year. This decrease is mainly due to a cold February in Florida and a wet spring in California

that reduced fruit set.